

REMARKS

In response to the Office Action mailed April 7, 2004, the Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration.

As a preliminary matter, Applicant notes that Applicant filed an Information Disclosure Statement on October 19, 2000 which statement accompanied the filing of the present application. Applicant respectfully requests that the next communication in this application include a copy of the PTO-1449 Form that accompanied the Information Disclosure Statement signed by the Examiner indicating that the references cited therein have been considered.

The Office Action suggests certain titles for particular sections of the application be included. Applicant has amended the specification to include the suggested titles where appropriate.

Claims 1 and 7 were objected to because of informalities. In addition, claims 1 and 7 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as being indefinite.

In response to the objection and indefiniteness rejection, Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to overcome these objections and rejections.

Claims 1-9 were rejected under the judicially created doctrine of obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over certain claims of U.S. Patent No. 6,560,757 and U.S. Patent No. 6,363,509.

In response to this rejection, Applicant files herewith a Terminal Disclaimer with respect to U.S. Patent No. 6,560,757. Accordingly, any obviousness-type double patenting rejections based on the '757 patent are now moot and Applicant respectfully requests that these rejections be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, this application should now be in condition for allowance. A notice to this effect is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes, after this amendment, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's attorney at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

Respectfully submitted,

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